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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/769,417	01/26/2001	Yoshio Fudeyasu	49657-962	4245

7590 06/18/2003

McDERMOTT, WILL & EMERY
600 13th Street, N.W.
Washington, DC 20005-3096

EXAMINER

NAMAZI, MEHDI

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2188
DATE MAILED: 06/18/2003

8

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	09/769,417	FUDEYASU, YOSHIO	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Mehdi Namazi	2188	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 01 April 2002.
- 2a) This action is **FINAL**. 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.
- 4) Claim(s) 3-17 is/are pending in the application.
 - 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) 4-14 and 17 is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 3 and 15 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) 16 is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) approved b) disapproved by the Examiner.

If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) All
 - b) Some
 - c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
 - a) The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)	4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____
2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)	5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____.	6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____

Art Unit: 2188

DETAILED ACTION

1. This office action is in response to the amendment filed March 1, 2003 (Amendment B).
2. Claims 3-17 are presented for further examination in view of the foregoing amendments and remarks. Claim 16 has been amended. No claim has been added. No claim has been canceled. Therefore, claims 3-17 are pending.

Response to Arguments

3. Applicant's arguments filed on March 1, 2003 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

Examiner rejects applicant's arguments that Nishino fails to teach claimed invention.

On page 8, paragraph 3, line 5, applicant states that "The examiner also references Fig. 3 of Nishino and alleges that the figure illustrates input terminals different in number than that of the input terminals."

The examiner respectfully refers applicant to fig. 2 which shows the same feature with regard to number of terminals.

Applicant's argument with regard to fig. 2 is moot because fig. 2 is part of prior art and it is acceptable as part of Nishino's invention.

Art Unit: 2188

As with regard to input and output terminals, fig. 2 has clearly shown those elements (922, and 924), and input terminal and output terminal are unidirectional as indicated, otherwise the system does not work.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

4. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless -

(e) the invention was described in-
(1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effect under this subsection of a national application published under section 122(b) only if the international application designating the United States was published under Article 21(2)(a) of such treaty in the English language; or

(2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that a patent shall not be deemed filed in the United States for the purposes of this subsection based on the filing of an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a).

5. Claims 3, and 15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as

being anticipated by Nishino (Nishino) (U.S. Patent No. 6,366,877).

As per claims 3, and 15, Nishino teaches a semiconductor memory device comprising: a plurality of input terminals for receiving write data, a control signal and an address signal (fig. 2); and at least one output terminal (fig. 2, output buffer

Art Unit: 2188

terminal), different in number from the input terminal for receiving the write data (fig. 2 shows different number of output terminal from input terminal), for outputting read data (inherent), wherein the input terminals are coupled to a first bus (fig. 2, shows connection to data bus), and the at least one output terminal is coupled to a second bus (fig. 2, shows connection to bus connected to element 920), and each of the first and second buses is a unidirectional bus for transferring a signal or data in one direction (fig. 2, shows that the output buffer and input buffer have unidirectional buses).

Allowable Subject Matter

6. Claim 16 is objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

7. Claims 4-14 and 17 are allowed.

Conclusion

8. **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this

Art Unit: 2188

action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Mehdi Namazi whose telephone number is (703) 306-2758. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday from 8:00 to 4:30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Donald A. Sparks, can be reached on (703) 308-1756.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the Group receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 305-9600.

Any response to this action should be mailed to:

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks

Washington, D.C. 20231

Art Unit: 2188

or faxed to:

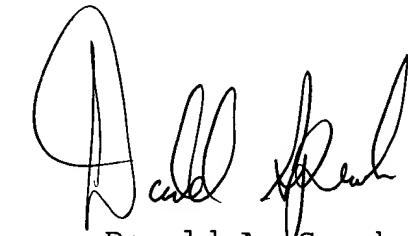
(703) 746-7239 (for formal communications intended for entry)

Or:

(703) 746-7240 (for informal or draft communications, please label PROPOSED or DRAFT)

Hand-delivered responses should be brought to Crystal Park 2, 2121 Crystal Drive, Arlington, VA., Sixth Floor (Receptionist).

M. Nanazzi
Patent Examiner
June 16, 2003



Donald A. Sparks
Supervisory Patent Examiner
TC 2100